

**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**01-05-09 Minutes**



**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of January 5, 2009**  
Approved January 19, 2009

Present: Chairman John (Jack) Karcz, Members Janice O'Brien, Tina Sturdivant and Pat deBeer and Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.  
Member Bill Knee joined the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Also present: Dennis Howland

Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**  
**PSNH AND NORTHEAST UTILITIES SYSTEM**

At 7:30 pm Kathleen Lewis of PSNH met with the Commission and presented a check for \$850 from the Northeast Utilities System for their Environmental Community Grant Program that was awarded to the Commission as the result of the application submitted by the Commission for funding for signs and posts to mark the Forest Trails in the Glen Oaks Town Forest.

A photo was taken for the PSNH website and the local papers. The Commission accepted the check and thanked Ms. Lewis for presenting it.

Later in the evening there was a general conversation relative to placing identifying signs in the Glen Oaks area.

**MINUTES**

Mbr. deBeer made the motion to accept the minutes of the December 1, 2008 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

**GLEN OAKES FOREST & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Chrm. Karcz said that Forester Charlie Moreno was scheduled to meet this evening with the Commission to report on the status of the Glen Oaks Forest & Wildlife Management Plan, but he had a conflicting agenda so he has been rescheduled to January 19, 2008.

**PRIME WETLAND**

Mrs. Bolduc reported that she spoke with Mark West this morning to find out if the wetlands that were designated as prime by the voters at the 2008 Town Meeting have been approved by the NH DES. Mr.

## **Fremont Conservation Commission**

### **01-05-09 Minutes**

West said that he submitted the data and maps to Frank Richardson at NH DES on October 24, 2008 and has not heard if they are approved. However, Mr. West said that he submitted the same for another

Town about 3 weeks prior to the Fremont information and he has not heard about that one either. At Mr. West's suggestion Mrs. Bolduc contacted Mr. Richardson directly to inquire about the status of the Fremont Prime Wetland package. There has not yet been a return reply.

#### **WETLANDS VIOLATION**

Chrm. Karcz stated that that on December 8, 2008 a possible wetlands violation in the lands south of Tuck Woods was reported. Pictures submitted show tracks of a large vehicle (skidder, backhoe, loader) that was used to destroy a beaver dam causing the beaver pond to drain and that as recently as November 29, this beaver pond was intact. It was thought that the dam demolition occurred between November 30 and December 6, 2008. An area south of the beaver dam near a stream was also disturbed. The vehicle which demolished the beaver dam appeared to have entered from a path leading from the house directly to the east of the dam on route 125.

Mbr. deBeer stated that the culvert on the path leading into the woods from the cell tower area had been replaced. The vehicle tracks were similar to those on the road to the beaver dam. The vehicle used to replace the culvert most likely entered via the path originating at the cell tower.

Chrm. Karcz stated that he has filed a written complaint, including the above information, pictures and GPS points, with Eben Lewis, Wetland Compliance Specialist with the NH DES.

There was a conversation relative to the fact that the wetland area disturbed is one that has been designated as prime by Mark West and the 2008 Town Meeting vote, but has not been approved as prime by the NH DES. Therefore the wetland is considered jurisdictional, but not prime.

Chrm. Karcz said that the RSA (210:9) says in part, *a landowner may destroy beaver and beaver dams on property under their control to protect property, public highways, or bridges from damage or submersion with the permission of the owner of lands affected.*

#### **BROWNFIELDS PROPERTY**

Chrm. Karcz reported that on December 8, 2008 Theresa Walker e-mailed an update from Credere Associates on the assessment work taking place on the Brownfields property. She reported that; *Environmental Engineer Ally Lostsgaarden was there with the drill rig just before Thanksgiving. They were installing a series of groundwater monitor wells. In addition, during drilling she was also collecting soil samples, evaluating them, and preparing samples for laboratory analysis. She returned last week for the first of two rounds of groundwater sampling. The second round of samples will be collected next week. Credere and I will schedule an appointment with the Selectmen, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission after the assessment reports are completed.*

Mbr. Sturdivant said that she made it a point to relate that Fremont bond money was not going to be utilized for this project.

## **Fremont Conservation Commission**

### **01-05-09 Minutes**

#### **ERLAC**

Chrm. Karcz reported that the Commission has received an invoice from RPC in the amount of \$150.00 for the 2009 ERLAC dues. This is usually paid later in the year, but the invoices are sent early for planning purposes and they can be paid anytime during the year. It was agreed that this be addressed after the March Town Meeting.

The Commission received the 2008 Annual ERLAC Report from Theresa Walker:

#### **2008 Annual Report**

##### **Exeter River Local Advisory Committee**

The Exeter River Local Advisory Committee (ERLAC) celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> year of stewardship of the river and watershed in 2008. The year was marked by productive partnerships with several organizations, including the Rockingham Planning Commission, NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Coastal Program, and NH Estuaries Project. These partnerships provide ERLAC with an opportunity to work with local Conservation Commissions to advocate effectively for the protection of natural resources throughout the watershed.

ERLAC partnered with the Raymond Conservation Commission to hold the seventh annual vernal pool workshop in May. Children and adults waded into woodland pools to identify salamanders, turtles and clusters of frog eggs. Development of forestland threatens vernal pools in every watershed community.

Several ERLAC members spent the summer working with the NH Department of Environmental Services to collect and identify macroinvertebrates in the Exeter River and its tributaries. These intrepid volunteers waded into the water at several locations to capture and identify bugs hiding under rocks in rapid sections of the river. Macroinvertebrates are used as an indication of water quality. ERLAC members are also actively monitoring water temperature and other indicators. Results from these sampling programs will be available in early 2009 on ERLAC's website, [www.exeterriver.org](http://www.exeterriver.org).

In October, ERLAC partnered with the Great Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited, NH Fish and Game, and the NH Department of Environmental Services to hold a fly-fishing workshop for children. With Trout Unlimited guides beside them, dozens of kids had an opportunity to learn how to cast and how to catch trout from the Exeter River just below Pickpocket Dam. Staff from the NH Department of Environmental Services also worked with kids and their parents to identify macroinvertebrates found in the river and explain why these creatures are such an important indicator of the impacts of land use on water quality and quantity. A volunteer from NH Fish and Game was also on hand to teach kids how to tie their own fishing flies, rounding out a wonderful day of fishing and learning on the Exeter River.

ERLAC continues to work closely with the NH Department of Environmental Services and the consulting firm Bear Creek on a Geomorphic Assessment of the Exeter River. The consultants and ERLAC members have walked miles and miles of the river corridor identifying erosion and other threats to water quality. ERLAC will be working closely with watershed Conservation Commissions in 2009 on restoration of several of the sites identified.

## **Fremont Conservation Commission**

### **01-05-09 Minutes**

ERLAC meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Rockingham County Nursing Home in Brentwood. Representatives are needed from your community. Please call 778-0885 for more information, or visit [www.exeterriver.org](http://www.exeterriver.org).

#### **TREASURERS REPORT**

The Commission received and reviewed:

1. A December 8, 2008 correspondence from Treasurer Kimberly Dunbar advising that she locked in a cd for \$170,000 of the current use funds for 1year @ 2.35% (which is double the amount that the PDIP was paying in interest). Mrs. Bolduc related that on December 9 the rate dropped to less than 1%.
2. The 2008 year end Conservation Commission account balance report with interest earned reflected in all accounts. Also included was a print-out of the interest for the last 3 months of 2008 and a year end accounts interest earned report.

#### **BUDGET**

The Commission received and reviewed:

1. A December 19, 2008 correspondence from Heidi relating that the total amount of funds remitted to the Conservation Account fund for fiscal 2008 land use change tax dollars is \$2,620.00. This sum represents the formula of 50% over the first \$10,000.00 collected. She also submitted the Tax Collector information used to arrive at that figure. (this is down from \$26,250 last year)
2. A December 30, 2008 correspondence from Town Administrator Heidi Carlson relating that the total amount of funds remitted to the Conservation Residual Account from the remainder of the 2007 budget appropriated funds is \$2,695.04.
3. The Conservation Commission general ledger expenditure report for the date ending December 31, 2008 showing the above transfers and a zero balance.

#### **COMMUNITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CTAP)**

Chrm. Karcz stated that there have been no CTAP meetings since May. Now towns have not spent their money and the spending is being pushed. Chrm. Karcz said that he and David West met with the Selectmen and said that the \$15,000 that was allotted had to be spent. Mbr. O'Brien wondered if the CTAP money could be used for something like a wetland mitigation plan or ordinance. There was a conversation relative to whether RPC could create a wetland mitigation plan and what it would cost. Chrm. Karcz agreed to ask Circuit Rider David West if the CTAP moneys could be used for this. Mbr. deBeer suggested a zoning ordinance amendment that would include a detailed vegetative buffer in the 100' wetland setback.

Mbr. O'Brien said that there was an open space plan that SPNHF and RPC were thinking about some time ago, but there has been no forward movement.

#### **OPEN SPACE**

Mbr. O'Brien said that Kenn Jones has agreed to share the duties of the Open Space Committee with her so they will act as Co-chairmen.

#### **MEMBER**

## **Fremont Conservation Commission**

### **01-05-09 Minutes**

Mr. Howland said that he is considering becoming involved with the Conservation Commission and he will attend more meetings. Mbr. Knee explained that the Conservation Commission is advisory to the Selectmen, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

#### **GLEN OAKES/OAK RIDGE**

There was a conversation relative to putting directions and/or information for Glen Oakes on the Conservation Commission web page on the Town website. Mbr. deBeer agreed to draft the directional document.

There was also a conversation about where to erect signs for directing traffic to "Oakridge and Glen Oakes."

#### **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no incoming correspondence.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Meredith Bolduc  
Recording Secretary